**Background**:

In today’s political climate, many Americans have called for reducing the size and the spending of the federal government. Indeed, members of Congress are evaluating different agencies of the federal bureaucracy to determine if they are still necessary and should continue to receive funding. You are a member of the Congressional committee charged with making recommendations regarding the funding and continuation of various federal agencies. You will create an analysis of a federal agency for your committee (the class) to review and make a recommendation about whether the agency should continue to receive funding or not.

**Task**:

Students will prepare an oral and visual presentation to present to the class, who will act as members of Congress charged with approving the continuation and funding of [various federal agencies](http://www.usa.gov/directory/federal/index.shtml).

**Requirements**:

* Presentations must contain a visual and oral component
  + Minimum of ten relevant visual images, cited in MLA format
  + Well-organized and visually attractive (avoid too much text!)
  + Utilizes engaging and convincing presentation techniques
* The analysis of the federal agency should include the following information (at minimum)
  + An overview of the history of the agency
    - When was it founded? (Can you place this in the context of other important events?)
    - Why was it founded? (In response to a specific event? Citizen demand? Other?)
  + An overview of the current organization of the agency
    - Who is (are) the chief bureaucrat(s) in charge of the agency?
      * What is their political and professional background?
      * Who appointed them? Was their appointment subject to Senate approval?
      * What are their official duties?
      * How long do they serve for?
    - Aside from leadership, how is the rest of the agency organized?
    - How many employees does the agency currently employ?
  + A description of the mission, purpose, and duties of the federal agency
    - What was the agency founded to do?
    - What duties is it currently charged with?
      * Give a description of at least two programs the agency has implemented in order to enact specific policy and describe the impact of these programs
    - **How well does the agency perform these duties?**
      * Use evidence to support your position – news stories, interviews, reports
      * Look for criticisms from interest groups, Congressional members, other politicians
  + Recommendation for continued funding
    - What is the current funding of the agency? (Look for current fiscal year)
    - Is the agency necessary? Why? Why not?
      * Does the agency benefit the public (directly or indirectly)?
      * Could the services provided by the agency be better provided by the private sector?
    - Should the agency continue to receive public funding?
* Information used in the presentation should be cited in MLA format at the end of the presentation
* Presentations will be given on Tuesday, February 18